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Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

South Africa:* draft resolution

The impacts of the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,

Noting that the El Niño phenomenon has a recurring character and can lead to extensive natural hazards with the potential to seriously affect humankind,

Reaffirming the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage and socioeconomic and environmental impacts caused by natural disasters resulting from the El Niño phenomenon, the effects of which are already affecting some regions,

Welcoming the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,[1] adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,

Recognizing that the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon is already occurring and that it is likely to have a global impact, affecting many countries, in particular developing countries,

Stressing that the majority of international climate outlook models suggest that the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon is likely to strengthen further before the end of 2015, and that its peak strength, according to some indicators, expected in late 2015 and throughout 2016, could potentially place it among the four strongest El Niño events since 1950, the impacts of which are already evident in some regions,

Stressing also the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that observer States be taken into account in the implementation of the present resolution,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

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1. *Reaffirms* the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage caused by natural disasters resulting from the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon, while recognizing ongoing national initiatives by affected countries to strengthen their capacities;

2. *Notes* the assistance provided to Governments by the International Research Centre on El Niño at Guayaquil, Ecuador, in the development of early warning systems that allow for the implementation of anticipatory risk reduction measures that contribute to the reduction of the potential human, economic and environmental impacts of the phenomenon;

3. *Recognizes* the technical and scientific support of the World Meteorological Organization in producing regionally coordinated monthly and seasonal forecasts, in particular its establishment of a consensus mechanism for the development of updates on El Niño/La Niña conditions, which receives contributions from several climate centres, including the International Research Centre on El Niño, the National Study of the El Niño Phenomenon of Peru and the National Technical Committee for the Regional Study of El Niño of Colombia, and also recognizes initiatives undertaken by Eastern African countries to strengthen their national capacities;

4. *Encourages* the World Meteorological Organization, in this regard, to continue to strengthen collaboration and the exchange of data and information with relevant institutions;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to urgently provide financial, technical and capacity-building support to countries that are affected by the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon for, among other things, strengthening national natural risk reduction institutions;

6. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to include observer States in the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, given the urgency of adequately addressing the impacts of the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon, to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session and to the Economic and Social Council assessing the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of the phenomenon on States, particularly those in the tropical Pacific region;

8. *Decides* to convene a plenary meeting of the General Assembly during its seventieth session on the effects of the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon to discuss action-oriented recommendations for addressing its impacts;

9. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to devote sufficient time during its 2016 session to address the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon, building upon the expertise of the regional commissions and the specialized agencies and relevant bodies of the United Nations system.